



# City of Seattle

Seattle Police Department

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August 31, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Lopez:

I am writing in response to your letter, dated July 18, 2018, regarding proposed revisions to SPD's Use of Force policy and your request as to the Department's 2017 Stops and Detentions Report.

Frankly, I'm somewhat confused by the CPC's suggestion to "adopt [a] 'good faith' standard in policy" as to whether an officer's use of deadly force will be deemed lawful. As I understand it, the language proposed in Initiative 940 is specific to determinations as to when an officer may be charged criminally for a use of deadly force, with the 'good faith' language serving, effectively, as an affirmative defense to charges. Department policy, however, which sets forth a far higher bar for officer performance, does not allow for variances depending on an officer's intent – simply put, if an officer violates policy, administrative repercussions do not depend on whether the violation was, or was not, in good faith. To add in the language you request strikes me, on its face, as serving only to *weaken* the Department's ability to hold employees to account for violating policy, where appropriate; but if I am missing something, I am of course happy to have the discussion.

Your points concerning the analyses in the 2017 Stops and Detentions Report are well taken. Part of our purpose in conducting these analyses, publishing the data, and encouraging others to explore our data by way of our public-facing interactive dashboards is for precisely the point you raise – to drive continuing research, analyses, and discussion around an increasingly robust data set. While we will always be limited in our own bandwidth to conduct exhaustive analyses around all of our many areas of operation, we do make our data public in the hopes that others will partner in the journey. Just as we look forward to collaborating with our many research partners and the Office of the Inspector General in maximizing data review, we welcome any engagement the CPC may wish to offer.

As always, I look forward to continuing discussions.

Sincerely,

Carmen Best  
Chief of Police

Cc: Deputy Chief Marc Garth Green  
Brian Maxey, Chief Operating Officer  
Assistant Chief Lesley Cordner  
Rebecca Boatright, Chief Legal Officer  
Lisa Judge, Inspector General